



The Only Guide to Alternative Investments You'll Ever Need: The Good, the Flawed, the Bad, and the Ugly

By Larry E. Swedroe, Jared Kizer

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The rewards of carefully chosen alternative investments can be great. But many investors don't know enough about unfamiliar investments to make wise choices.

For that reason, financial advisers Larry Swedroe and Jared Kizer designed this book to bring investors up to speed on the twenty most popular alternative investments:

Real estate, Inflation-protected securities, Commodities, International equities, Fixed annuities, Stable-value funds, High-yield (junk) bonds, Private equity (venture capital), Covered calls, Socially responsible mutual funds, Precious metals equities, Preferred stocks, Convertible bonds, Emerging market bonds, Hedge funds, Leveraged buyouts, Variable annuities, Equity-indexed annuities, Structured investment products, Leveraged funds

The authors describe how the investments work, the pros and cons of each, which to consider, which to avoid, and how to get started. Swedroe and Kizer evaluate each investment in terms of:

- Expected returns
- Volatility
- Distribution of returns
- Diversification potential
- Fees
- Trading and operating expenses
- Liquidity
- Tax efficiency
- Account location
- Role in an asset-allocation program

Any investor who is considering or just curious about investment opportunities outside the traditional world of stocks, bonds, and bank certificates of deposit would be well-advised to read this book.

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Editorial Review

Review

“A timely and valuable book. These are good-sense judgments that every investor should pay attention to.”—Jane Bryant Quinn, author, “Smart and Simple Financial Strategies for Busy People”

“There is plenty of good information in this book for sophisticated investors to consider. The authors make this information accessible to novices as well by explaining everything in plain language, including a long glossary that demystifies the terms used in the book, annotating their text with the sources of their research and offering a reading list for ‘serious investors’ (even though they believe ‘there should be no other kind’).”—Hazel Becker, www.nuwireinvestor.com

“A major success of [this book] is its demonstration of how to obtain the purported benefits of nontraditional asset classes more cost-effectively through adjustments to the reliable old stock-bond- cash allocation.”—Martin Fridson, “The Investment Professional”

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(Jane Bryant Quinn 2008-09-01)

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Review

“A timely and valuable book. The authors describe twenty alternatives to investing in traditional U.S. stocks and bonds, and how they work. They tell you which ones to walk away from, which to consider (carefully!), and how to get involved. These are good-sense judgments that every investor should pay attention to.”

—Jane Bryant Quinn

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“Larry Swedroe and Jared Kizer have written a different sort of investment book, and one that has been sorely needed: a comprehensive guide to the theory, peer-reviewed literature, and practical nitty-gritty of actually deploying portfolio assets. It is a gold mine for even the most experienced of practitioners, and a vital lifeline for small investors. This volume is destined to become the most marked and Post-it–noted tome on the average investment shelf.”

—William Bernstein

Author, *The Intelligent Asset Allocator* and *The Four Pillars of Investing*

“What’s missing in your library? Larry’s new *Alternative Investments!* You’ve already got tons of books on stocks, bonds, and funds. *The Only Guide to Alternative Investments You’ll Ever Need* is all about the future of investing, the new stuff that’ll give you an edge in the twenty-first century. An absolute must-read!”

—Paul B. Farrell, JD, PhD

Columnist, *DowJones-MarketWatch*

Author, *The Millionaire Code*, *The Winning Portfolio*, and *The Lazy Person’s Guide to Investing*

“Swedroe and Kizer provide a thorough analysis of the pros and cons of each alternative investment. They recommend ‘good’ alternatives to add to a diversified portfolio of high-grade bonds and stocks. Perhaps more important, they warn investors about the dangers of truly ‘bad’ and ‘ugly’ alternatives.”

—Dr. William Reichenstein, CFA

Pat and Thomas R. Powers Chair in Investment Management, Hankamer School of Business, Baylor University

“Swedroe and Kizer have sorted through the clutter and confusion of alternative investments to provide the authoritative voice on these much hyped and frequently misunderstood financial products. Kudos to them for sharing their wisdom in a manner that can be easily understood by all.”

—Bill Schultheis

Author, *The Coffeehouse Investor*

“What a great service this book is to the investing community! As investors reach out for higher returns, many will venture into the higher-risk category known as alternative investments. For those who are so tempted, this book provides an invaluable guide.”

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Professor of Finance and Director of the Financial Planning Program, Western Kentucky University

“At the risk of being clichéd, Swedroe has done it again! I make it a point to read every book written by him. This time, it’s all about alternative investments, and Swedroe, running true to form, tells it exactly as it is. He pulls no punches, he holds nothing back. If he doesn’t like something, he says so. If emerging markets equities are downright risky, he doesn’t mince his words or try to put a puffy spin on it. That is what makes reading Swedroe so fascinating.”

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Executive editor, *CPA Wealth Provider*

“For investors looking to go beyond an S&P 500 Index fund and a bond fund—and every investor should—don’t make a move until you’ve read *The Only Guide to Alternative Investments You’ll Ever Need*. Full of historical evidence, practical advice, and specific investment ideas, this book provides a blueprint for what to include and what to avoid in an intelligently constructed portfolio.”

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“As a financial journalist, I’ve been recommending Larry Swedroe’s books for years because they are filled with invaluable advice that can make any reader a more successful investor. I will now be adding *The Only Guide to Alternative Investments You’ll Ever Need* to my favored reading list.

—Lynn O’Shaughnessy

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From the Back Cover

Praise for *The Only Guide to Alternative Investments You’ll Ever Need*

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